LOS ANGELES COUNTY - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DEPUTY INVOLVED

SHOOTER

EMPLOYEE'S NAME					
Blair, Stephen					

RANK	EMPLOYEE NO.	UNIT AND DIVISION / REGION OF ASSIGNMENT
Deputy Generalist	[redacted]	Safe Streets Bureau, Field Operations Region II

SEX	RACE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE
M	White	602	190	[redacted]	[redacted]

DUTY STATUS	HIRE DATE
On-Duty	08-07-85

UNIFORM	RAID JACKET	PLAIN CLOTHES	VEST
Yes	No	No	Yes

INJURED	DECEASED	CORONER'S CASE NO.
Yes	Yes	See Homicide report

DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES
See Homicide Report

WAS THE DEPUTY IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE SCENE? YES [X] NO [ ]

WAS THE DEPUTY SEQUESTERED PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW? YES [ ] NO [ ]

WHERE? N/A

SUPERVISED BY: Sgt. Dave Furmanski

WEAPON USED

TYPE	AUTHORIZED
Beretta 92F	Yes

AMMUNITION TYPE	AUTHORIZED
9mm	Yes

RANGE QUALIFICATION (LAST DATE)	NO. OF ROUNDS FIRED BY DEPUTY	NO. OF HITS
[redacted]	Five	Unknown

DEPUTY'S TOXICOLOGY

UNDER THE INFLUENCE	TEST FOR CAUSE ORDERED	ORDERED BY
N/A		

TRAINING INFORMATION

LASER VILLAGE TRAINING (LAST DATE)	PRACTICAL POLICE COURSE (LAST DATE)
[redacted]	[redacted]

ASSIGNMENT HISTORY		
DATE	**UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT**	**RANK**
04-95 to Present	Safe Streets Bureau	Deputy Sheriff
[redacted]	[redacted]	Deputy Sheriff
[redacted]	[redacted]	Deputy Sheriff
[redacted]	[redacted]	Deputy Sheriff

PRIOR SHOOTING INCIDENTS (ALL KNOWN INCIDENTS WHERE DEPUTY HAS DISCHARGED A WEAPON INCLUDING ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGES AND SHOTS FIRED AT ANIMALS OR HUMANS)

FILE	DATE	TYPE
[redacted]		

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

File #S009069

On May 12, 1995, Sergeants Curtiss Burnett and Mark Walker of the Internal Affairs Bureau, along with Lieutenant Dennis Burns of the Civil Litigation Unit responded to the 5200 block of Walnut Avenue, Lynwood, regarding a deputy involved shooting. The shooting occurred in front of [redacted] Walnut Avenue and resulted in the death of Deputy Stephen Blair.

The statements recorded below were obtained from a supplemental report written by the assigned Homicide Investigators, Sergeants Rey Verdugo and Gary Miller.

On May 12, 1995, Deputies Stephen Blair, #[redacted] and Robert Lyons, #[redacted] assigned to the Gang Enforcement Team, were scheduled to work the Century Station area. Their shift began at 1600 hours and they assumed the call letters of W521B. Deputy Lyons stated that for the past three weeks, he and Deputy Blair had ridden together as partners. Deputy Lyons stated that on the night of May 12th., he was working the bookman position while Deputy Blair was the driver.

Deputy Lyons said at approximately 1930 hours, after driving through the area for some period of time, they turned eastbound on Walnut Avenue from Duncan Avenue. As they drove eastbound on Walnut Avenue, he noted that there was no movement on the street except for two Hispanic males who were walking ahead of them on the north side of Walnut Avenue. Deputy Lyons described one of the Hispanic males as dressed in a dark blue baseball hat, long beige colored jacket, and beige or white colored pants. Deputy Lyons described the other Hispanic male as wearing a black baseball hat, long black jacket, black pants, and possibly a white T-shirt. Deputy Lyons stated that he had a better view of the male dressed in beige and further described him as being 505 to 508 inches tall and heavier than the male dressed in black. Deputy Lyons observed the male dressed in black to be possibly 601 inches tall and thinly built.

Deputy Lyons continued by stating that while he and Deputy Blair were completing the turn from Duncan Avenue onto Walnut Avenue, he noted that the male in beige turned his head to the rear and looked directly at their radio car. Lyons added that the male wearing beige immediately reached into his right jacket pocket, removed an object (later determined to be a 45 caliber automatic pistol), and made an overhand toss with his right hand, similar to a "hook shot", tossing the object into a yard they were walking past.

Deputy Lyons stated that having experienced numerous occasions in the past, in which suspects have thrown contraband away upon seeing police, they decided to investigate. Deputy Lyons said Deputy Blair then accelerated the patrol car driving to a point slightly to the rear of the suspects who continued walking eastbound on Walnut Avenue.

Deputy Lyons stated Deputy Blair then pulled the radio car into a position pointing northeast and after parking, they both began to exit. Lyons stated that as they were exiting the vehicle, Deputy Blair advised him to detain the suspect wearing beige and further advised that he would concentrate on the suspect dressed in black.

Deputy Lyons said as he approached the right front fender of the patrol car, he focused his attention on the suspect wearing beige and also noted via his peripheral vision that the other suspect was now moving in a westerly direction. Deputy Lyons said the suspect in beige then stopped in the vicinity of the gate leading to the property of [redacted] Walnut and was now facing him with both arms extended to the side, possibly with palms open.

Deputy Lyons noted it was at this point that Deputy Blair had exited the radio car and began to mount the parkway on the north side of the street. Deputy Lyons said Deputy Blair then yelled for the suspect dressed in black to stop. Deputy Lyons additionally stated that neither he nor Deputy Blair had drawn their weapons and that his view of Deputy Blair was peripheral.

Deputy Lyons stated that immediately after Deputy Blair had issued the command for the suspect to stop, he heard the sound of gunfire, between four to five rounds fired in rapid succession. Deputy Lyons said he immediately drew his weapon and began to seek cover behind the right front fender of the radio car. Deputy Lyons said that through peripheral vision he noted Deputy Blair take a step rearward and appeared to take cover behind the left front door of the radio car.

Deputy Lyons said that after crouching behind the right front fender, he immediately raised up while pointing his weapon in a north/northeast direction in an attempt to locate the origin of the gunshots and the suspects. Deputy Lyons said he no longer saw either suspect, but saw a female Hispanic standing in a yard east of their location. Deputy Lyons said he again ducked behind the right front fender and proceeded toward the rear of the radio car. Deputy Lyons said he noted that Deputy Blair still appeared to be crouched behind the driver's door of the radio car.

Deputy Lyons said he continued in a westerly direction towards the rear of the radio car and at that point, heard the sound of additional gunfire, between three to five rounds in rapid succession, but felt they were from a different gun. Deputy Lyons said that when the first volley of rounds were fired, he felt as if they were passing near his head, however, during the second volley of rounds, he didn't hear or feel the same effect. Deputy Lyons said he recalls after the initial shots were fired that he continuously yelled to Deputy Blair asking Blair if he were "OK."

Deputy Lyons said that after reaching the rear portion of the radio car, he made a short run for the rear portion of a Mazda pickup that was parked west of the radio car. Deputy Lyons stated that when he reached the rear of the pickup, he noted that Deputy Blair was lying face down in the street adjacent the radio car, while still holding his weapon, with his right arm extended in a westerly direction, over his head. Deputy Lyons said Deputy Blair appeared to have blood emanating from the lower portion of his head or neck region. Deputy Lyons said he immediately ran to render aid to Deputy Blair and to initiate a broadcast. Deputy Lyons said that while initiating the broadcast, he believes he saw the suspect in beige running westbound toward Ducan Avenue and Walnut Avenue. Deputy Lyons said he continued broadcasting until assisting units began to arrive.

Deputy Lyons said he feels certain that he could identify the suspect wearing beige, but stated that he would have a difficult time identifying the suspect wearing black because he did not get a clear view of him. Deputy Lyons concluded by stating that his and Deputy Blair's attention was drawn to the suspects from the moment they turned the radio car onto Walnut Avenue and that the suspects were the only persons moving on the street at that time. Deputy Lyons said there was also no vehicular traffic other than the radio car.

See Exhibit photos and supplemental reports regarding the crime scene and arrest of suspects.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIF'S DEPARTMENT

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: October 31, 1995

FROM: WILLIAM T. STONICH, COMMANDER
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
TRAINING DIVISION

TO: JAMES K. MULVIHILL, CAPTAIN
SAFE STREETS BUREAU

SUBJECT: FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, NON-HIT SHOOTING, MAY 12, 1995, PSTD #009069

The purpose of this memo is to notify you of the review committee's findings and recommendations concerning the non-hit shooting incident which occurred on May 12, 1995.

The committee met on October 26, 1995, and consisted of myself and Commanders Mangan (FOR II) and Skaggs (FOR III). We determined that the use of deadly force by Deputy Steven Blair, [redacted] was within policy.

The committee recommends that Deputy Robert Lyons, [redacted] be commended for his actions on the night of this tragic event.

Accompanying this memo is the original PSTD Response Team package which contains the IAB and Training Bureau reports. Please evaluate the included material and complete and sign the enclosed form documenting your recommendations and actions. Return the PSTD Response Team package to me through your division chief within 30 days.

WTS:smks